

Books and the People Who Make Them

IN March or April eight or ten titles will be added to the Modern Library (Boni & Liveright; 70 cents each). They will include *Poems and Poems in Prose*, by Baudelaire; tales from De Maupassant, translated, edited and prefaced by Michael Monahan; Gertrude Atherton's *Rezanov*, with an introduction by William Marion Reedy, and the complete works of Ernest Dowson. For the first time in months the publishers are now able to supply every one of the sixty-four titles already published.

It will not surprise those who read *The New Book of Martyrs* (George H. Doran Company) to hear that the Goncourt Prize for 1918 has been awarded to the author of it, Georges Duhamel, for another book, a collection of eight or ten little stories or sketches, published under the title *Civilization*. These the Century Company will publish this spring. Duhamel is a physician and *The New Book of Martyrs* was made up of unforgettable hospital sketches. One of the stories in *Civilization* has to do with an accountant of the slain in battle. He has a terribly hard time merely keeping count of them. He says:

"It is said, sir, that corpses are not much and when one is accustomed to live with them one considers them somewhat like stones. Well, this is not my case. All these bodies with which I pass my days finally become my companions. Some of them please me and I almost regret to see them go. Sometimes when I strike one with my elbow I have to keep myself from saying: 'Forgive me, friend.' I look at them with their horny hands, their poor feet callous from long marches, and all that speaks to my heart. I see a poor ring on a finger, an old scar, sometimes even a tattoo mark; finally one of those things from which man is not separated in death, his pitiful gray hair, the lines of his face, the trace of a smile round his eyes, or oftener a trace of horror. All that makes me think. I read their history on their bodies; I think how much they have worked with these arms. I consider that they have seen many things with their eyes, that their lips have been kissed, that they were vain of their mustaches. I think of these things while I sew them in heavy canvas."

Houghton Mifflin Company reports that the daily number of manuscripts received has doubled since the signing of the armistice. A large per cent. of them are war stuff and indicate that the A. E. F. may have transformed itself into an Authors' Expeditionary Force.

The Princeton University Press's 1919 publications include the following: *Socialism and American Ideals*, by William Starr Myers, professor of politics in Princeton University, who holds Socialism and Americanism to be incompatible; *The Vocational Re-education of Maimed Soldiers*, which describes Belgian experience in aiding the maimed; *Patent Law*, by John Barker Waite of the University of Michigan Law School, which would have been published last fall had not the suit case containing the manuscript been stolen from a train between New York and Washington; *Heraldry*, by Allan Marquand, and a book about the ballads and ballad singers of Nova Scotia, by Prof. William R. Mackenzie of Washington University.

Mr. Waite was forced, because of the



theft of his manuscript, to rewrite his book from his notes, a heartbreaking task. However, in the interval, the Supreme Court has verified at least one prophecy he made and has handed down several important decisions which he can include.

Dear Godchild (Charles Scribner's Sons) is the correspondence of James Prendergast Jackson, Jr., of Greenville Falls, N. Y., aged 11, and Andree Leblanc, aged 11, of Paris, France. It seems James wanted to correspond with a boy of his own age. After the exchange of a number of letters he made a shocking discovery which caused him to write to the sponsors: "The boy you give me is a girl. What are you going to do about it?" . . . It was patched up somehow and the letters went on.

In *The League of Nations To-day and To-morrow* (Marshall Jones Company, Boston) Horace M. Kallen presents a draft of a constitution for such a league. Some of its provisions are: All treaties, constitutions and acts of legislation contrary to it to be null; secession to be permitted if voted by two-thirds of the voters of a constituent state; the "supreme organ" to be an International Council, composed of representatives apportioned among the states according to their voting power, which is to be determined by their degree of democracy, literacy and population; representative to be nominated by the popular branch of each national Government and elected by popular vote; the council to pass no law limiting the political independence, territorial integrity or equality of economic opportunity of any state, or the cultural, religious,

undeveloped countries, international hygiene, labor; an international court to adjudicate disputes between members of the league; failure to carry out the council's decrees to be regarded as a declaration of war upon the league; budget to be prepared annually by the council and raised by levies on the states, proportioned to their voting power, and by fees, tolls and taxes on the use of international "ways, organs and instruments."

The most important volume on D. Appleton & Co.'s list for the early spring will be Brand Whitlock's book on Belgium, which Mr. Whitlock has been engaged in writing for the past two years. Only a small part of the work appeared serially and the manuscript has grown to such proportions that the Appletons have decided to publish it in two large volumes. Mary Hastings Bradley's novel, *The Wine of Astonishment*, will appear this month. Thomas Dixon's story of woman's economic independence, which he calls *The Way of a Man*, will appear next month.

George W. Perkins is a confirmed optimist. If you don't believe it, just read his chapter in *American Problems of Reconstruction* (E. P. Dutton & Co.), wherein he expresses the conviction that "the man of exceptional ability, of more than ordinary talent, will hereafter look for his rewards, for his honors, not in one direction, but in two—first and foremost, in some public work accomplished, and, second, in wealth acquired. . . . In my judgment, the fashion of acquiring wealth simply for the sake of possessing it has about reached its greatest height, and the fashion of performing public service for the sake of performing it is coming into vogue." Wealth is "going out"; altruism is "coming in"—eh? But the pessimist will still insist that, even if this be true, it's a case of all going out and nothing (or next to nothing) coming in.

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